

The Gospel is Our Godly Direction

March 29th, 2020

Mark 1:14-20

“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’ Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed Him.”

As we approach uncertain and difficult times, we must remember that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is as relevant today as it was in the times of Jesus and throughout the history of the church. Since the time that the message was given by Jesus, His gospel has been at work, and as we witness difficult times, we know that the Scriptures are still being fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand.

Through the gospel, we have Godly direction at all times.

- ❖ As we believe and embrace the message of Jesus Christ, we have Godly direction through the guidance and promises of Jesus Christ.
📖 2 Peter 1:16-19
- ❖ The events that are taking place now are a fulfillment of the very things that are written in the Word of God.
Matthew 24:6-7 “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will raise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these things are the beginnings of sorrows.” (NKJV)¹
Luke 21:25-26 “and there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”
↳ The Word of God explains that the events that are to take place in the world are going to bring such distress and perplexity to the point where people will faint with fear at the awareness of what is coming.
- ❖ There is a kingdom that has been promised and His Kingdom will be established, but first, it is necessary that everything else in this universe will be shaken.
📖 Hebrews 12:25-29
- ❖ If we rest in the gospel of Jesus Christ and His promises, we are well aware that He is in control of everything.
Hebrews 1:3 “...He upholds the universe by the word of His power...”
Colossians 1:16-17 “For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”
- ❖ There is an enemy that will use our present circumstances to bring fear and confusion, but in Christ we have life and direction.
John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”
- ❖ During this time of uncertainty, God is at work with a purpose for His people.
Lamentations 3:22-23 “Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” (NKJV)¹

- ❖ Even though this virus brings sickness, death, mourning, economical struggles, chaos ...
...God is showing His mercy!

Jonah 3:3-5 "So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey, and he called out, 'Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on a sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them."

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

To reject the gospel is to reject the direction of God.

- ❖ To reject the biblical direction is a reality in our society as it was at the time of Jesus. Our call is to believe the gospel through the knowledge of His word and to have conviction so that we have godly direction.

📖 Matthew 21:12-17

↳ The chief priests and the scribes were indignant when Jesus performed miracles in the temple and received worship from the children.

📖 Matthew 21:23-32

↳ The chief priests and the elders questioned the authority of Jesus and chose not to believe His message and repent.

📖 John 12:36-37; 42-43

↳ The authorities believed in Jesus but did not confess it, *"for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God."*

Our call is to believe and follow the gospel.

📖 Mark 1:16-20

↳ If you believe in Jesus, and have conviction through the message of His gospel, you have a call.

- ❖ He calls us to follow Him and He gives us purpose in life, therefore...

... We have the truth and the truth sets us free.

John 8:32 "and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

↳ If we have been set free, we have the peace of God to fulfill His purpose.

... We have His peace and through Him we will overcome our fears.

John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

... We have joy through His words.

John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

... We have living hope in His salvation.

1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

... We have the gospel and our call is to live according to it and to proclaim it.

1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

... We are to lead our families in the way of the Lord.

📖 Joshua 24:14-16

... We are the generation that, in the midst of trials and tribulations, seeks the face of the Lord in humility!

2 Chronicles 7:14

*“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves,
and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin
and heal their land.”*

Endnotes:

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